

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus comprising:

a programmable information tag;

5 a communication unit capable of communicating information to one or more information interfaces; and

a controller, coupled the programmable information tag and the communication unit, arranged to receive information from the information interfaces through the communication unit, and program

10 the programmable information tag with at least part of the information from the information interface,

wherein the programmed information relates to a good or service to be provided by a merchant or service provider.

15 2. The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the apparatus and the information interface communicate in a client/server network.

20 3. The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the programmable information tag comprises an RFID tag.

4. The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the programmable information tag comprises a barcode tag.

5. The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the programmable information tag is detachable from the apparatus.

6. The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the
5 information comprises a receipt for goods or service purchased via
an e-commerce transaction.

7. The apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the client/server network comprises the Internet.

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8. The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the programmed information further includes information related to a particular user.

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9. An e-commerce method, comprising the steps of:
receiving a request to complete a commercial transaction for a good or service over the Internet by a consumer;
completing the commercial transaction with the consumer;
providing an e-receipt to the consumer, the e-receipt
20 containing information that may be used by the consumer to program an RFID tag; and
recording information related to the commercial transaction and the e-receipt.

10. The e-commerce method according to Claim 9, wherein the information includes a unique code.

11. The e-commerce method according to Claim 9, wherein the 5 information includes data related to the consumer's identity.

12. The e-commerce method according to Claim 9, further comprising creating a database that includes information that is used to verify what goods or services are associated with the e- 10 receipt.

13. The e-commerce method according to Claim 12, wherein the database further includes consumer profiles.

15 14. A system for performing e-commerce transactions, comprising:

means for receiving a request to complete a commercial transaction for a good or service over the Internet by a consumer;

20 means for completing the commercial transaction with the consumer;

means for providing an e-receipt to the consumer, the e-receipt containing information that may be used by the consumer to program an RFID tag; and

25 means for recording information related to the commercial transaction and the e-receipt.

15. The system according to Claim 14, wherein the information includes a unique code.

5 16. The system according to Claim 14, wherein the information includes data related to the consumer's identity.

17. The system according to Claim 9, further comprising means for creating a database that includes information that is used to
10 verify what goods or services are associated with the e-receipt.

18. The system according to Claim 17, wherein the database further includes consumer profiles.

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